

Rio Verde



During our stay at La Paz this October we went on a shopping trip that “sort of expanded”: originally we were planning to call into Carrefour and Aki, the DIY store, in Granada and then go on to Órgiva in the Alpujarras to see if we could find some tiles we were looking for. This idea got turned around when we realised that tile shops might shut at 2pm whereas the big stores in Granada might well stay open, so we headed straight on through Lanjarón to Órgiva.

After a welcome coffee stop (but no tiles) the wanderlust kicked in and we drove on down the Guadalfeo valley towards Motril on the coast. The last stretch of this road takes you through quite an impressive gorge before you hit the hectares of *cherimoya* orchards on the coastal plain.

We had been told that the Rio Verde was a good place to go, so turned west, through Salobreña to Almuñécar and then headed up the Rio Verde towards Otivar passing a lovely example of a Roman aqueduct on the way! Once through Otivar the road became a proper *camino de montaña* with plenty of hairpin beds and some fantastic views as we drove higher and higher into the Sierras de Alpujarras and Tejeda. It looks as though there are some good walks here too, and at least one of the leaflets we have at the house describes some of these. We eventually wound up at a restaurant – *Meson de los Prados* that looks as though it is used by hunters – a big map on the wall showed the various hunting zones that the sierras are divided up into. We couldn’t decide between *jamón* or *queso bocadillas* so shared one of each and they were enormous and delicious!

The Rio Verde itself lies down the hill to the west and there is a signposted trail. It is a venue for “extreme sports” such as canyoning but also looks as though it could be a good walking area.

From here we had to go back to Granada to finish off the shopping, but a better way back to La Paz would almost certainly be through Jayena and around the lake at Bermajales, and on past Alhama de Granada, down the hill through Moraleda and back that way!